

EDITORIAL PAGE

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OPYRGHT **The Price**

THE EXACTING of ransom is always an odious practice. It is particularly so in the case of the exchange of 21 Americans in Cuba for four Castro goons held in this country. Three of these despicable characters were accused of plotting sabotage in this country; another is the convicted slayer of a nine-year-old girl.

Release of this miserable quartet from American justice is a bitter pill to swallow. But for the sake of freedom for a greater number of Americans we think it is entirely worth it.

The price Castro has demanded for freeing the 21 is characteristic of his bandit nature. But now, with the release of the Americans, the United States is in a position to pursue as tough a policy toward Cuba as it desires, without fear of reprisal.

The exchange, moreover, in no way detracts from the accomplishments of Attorney James B. Donovan, that astonishing one-man international rescue committee. It is largely through his efforts that American prisoners and the Bay of Pigs invaders are now free in the U. S. Neither can one forget his unprecedented cloak-and-dagger swap of U-2 pilot Gary Powers for Soviet spy Col. Rudolph Abel last year. Donovan, in addition, followed the highest traditions of American jurisprudence in carrying out his court-appointed defense of Col. Abel, regardless of his personal opinion of his client.

Mr. Donovan deserves his country's praise; one can only wonder what his next exploit will be. It is impartial effort of this kind that the likes of Castro and the entire scurrilous crew of international communism will never understand.